

# The Real Felicita Inspired Felicita Park

by Robert R. Copper, DCAO

The land that is today Felicita Park has felt the tread of Indians, mission padres, pioneers, travelers, cattle ranchers, citrus growers, and park visitors.

Long before the Spaniards came to California, Indians made their campsites here in Felicita Park. Massive boulders and hollows in the rocks where they ground their acorns remain today. They traversed the banks of Felicita creek, just as we can today. The trail where they wound their way from the ocean coast to this site can still be traced through nearby San Dieguito River corridor.



*Felicita*

In 1789, the Spaniards parceled the land and named the area "La Canada de San Bernardo" - 17,763 acres of good hill and valley land. Yes, today the park is in

Escondido, but in the times of the Spaniards, it was in Rancho Bernardo.

In 1821, Mexico gained independence from Spain and in 1844 Rancho San Bernardo's first recorded owner was Capt. Joseph Seven-Oaks, an enterprising English seafarer. He gave up a life of adventure and daring on the bounding main to become Don Jose Francisco Snook, a gentleman rancher in the best romantic tradition of the Mexican Don.

Snook died without heirs and his rancho passed to many other owners. The famous Butterfield Stage Route traversed its land and the tiny village of "Bernardo" (located to the east of I-15 between Escondido and Rancho Bernardo) grew to be a favorite stopping point for travelers between Escondido and San Diego. Through the years the rancho became the property of various owners who forged the destiny of the county. County Sheriff and Assessor James McCoy purchased Rancho Bernardo in the 1860s and what is today Felicita Park was known as McCoy's Grove, a popular picnicking and rest stop.

As County Sheriff, McCoy was known to be shrewd, physical and a quick enforcer. He frequently roughed up his prisoners

see Copper Article Title, page 4

## Closing Landfill Means Dirty Work

There's more to closing a landfill than just turning out the lights and locking the gate as you leave.

Much more...

...and it's a *dirty* business.

When the County's San Marcos Landfill stopped accepting trash in 1997, it became "inactive" not "closed." Shortly afterwards, teams from the Department of Public Works (DPW), began a long and arduous process of closure. That includes meeting some precise environmental standards, state regulations and federal laws.

DPW won't have to move heaven and earth to get the job done—just earth. In fact, some 440,000 cubic yards of special soil will be imported to cover the surface of the landfill to a depth of five to eight feet. That will take thousands of dump truck loads. Once the dirt's in place, vegetation will be planted to reduce erosion and



*The old entrance to the San Marcos landfill.*



see Landfill Dirty Work, page 4



# LUEG Fair 2004

by Mary Moralez-Silva,  
Customer Service Center

During the first two weeks of June, the Land Use and Environment Group hosted the annual All-Hands employee fair at Felicita County Park in Escondido. The historical backdrop of the Park served as the location where approximately 1300 LUEG employees came together to personally connect with their Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Robert Copper and each of the LUEG department directors.

In keeping with this year's theme, (Taking the Initiative: LUEG Past, Present and Future), each department presented wonderful displays highlighting the accomplishments of the past, the current challenges and needs they are meeting in the present, and finally some ideas about the direction in the future.

Department display booths provided a glimpse into the past with photographs from the Farm and Home Advisor and authentic equipment that employees used to perform their jobs decades ago, such as an early 1900s solid brass standard bushel once used in Agriculture, Weights and Measures. The displays also highlighted the departments' new and future responsibilities. For example, the Department of Public Works is now removing dead, dying and diseased trees, which are a potential fuel source for wildfires and the Department of Environmental Health is working to minimize the spread of the West Nile Virus. Parks and Recreation is continuing work to reopen fire-damaged parks in the County. The Air Pollution Control District offered interesting ideas on the use of alternative fuels for vehicles and the possibility of a Hydrogen Highway. Finally the Department of Planning and Land Use presented a video featuring cities and homes of the future that will take full advantage of cleaner, more efficient technologies.

The Fair was a great experience and we hope that you will join us again next year!



DCAO, Bob Copper, welcomes fair attendees.



Attendees listen as department directors provide insight into their booth's vision of past, present and future.



Marianne Bickhaus shows attendees the "Present" booth for Parks and Recreation.



Left: Agriculture, Weights and Measures booth displays some of the local fauna.



Above: Attendees marvel at what 5 pounds of fat can really look like.

Left: University of California Cooperative Extension exhibit showing ranching and farming practices of the past.

Photographs by Ty Berlanga of DPW, Cartographic Services.



LUEG Employee's interest takes off as they learn about County Airports past, present and future.



The Air Pollution Control District's display spotlighted efforts by District employees to clean up our air.

Below: Anthony Torres, Department of Environmental Health, Hazardous Incident Response Team, demonstrating some of their equipment.



## Andy's Walk in the Park

Traveling down city streets should be a "walk in the park", according to Andy Hamilton of the Air Pollution Control District. Andy promotes walkable communities with beautiful storefronts, verdant trees, inviting sidewalks, slowed traffic, and pedestrians everywhere.

An air resources specialist with the District's Indirect Source Program, Andy encourages less-polluting modes of travel, including walking,



Giving his feet a break, Andy Hamilton tries out a Segway. The personal transportation device was at the LUEG Fair illustrating transportation modes of the future.

bicycling and transit use. To achieve this, he stresses the importance of slowing down traffic.

"A community won't be walkable if pedestrians are afraid to cross the street", Andy said. "The way a street is designed will determine how fast those cars go."

Traffic can be calmed in a variety of ways such as landscaped traffic circles, raised crosswalks, and landscaped medians. Andy has written a guide entitled "Slow Down - Taming Neighborhood Traffic" to help residents determine what traffic calming techniques could best be employed in their neighborhood.

Andy frequently gives presentations at local forums outlining how to make communities more walkable and the benefits for local businesses. He stresses that walking opportunities don't just happen - they require planning and funding.

Andy's pedestrian advocacy has also involved him in the national effort. Andy currently chairs the America Walks Steering Committee for the 4th National Congress of Pedestrian Advocates.



before booking them in jail. Rancho Bernardo and this beautiful oak grove passed through many hands as the towns of Escondido, Rancho Bernardo, and Del Dios sprang up around it. In 1954, McCoy's Grove became a County Park. The County named the park after Native American Felicity who lived in nearby San Pasqual Valley. Felicity was raised a hunter-gatherer and lived from the early 1800s to 1916. As a young girl, Felicity was baptized by a Franciscan Priest from Mission San Diego. As a young woman, Felicity witnessed the Battle of San Pasqual, and the Americanization of San Diego County. By the time Felicity passed away, she had seen the introduction of the horseless carriage.

As you visit Felicity park either with your family or during this year's LUEG all hands meetings, remember the rich history embodied in this park and the rich past that safely rests in its shady oak trees.

## Landfill Dirty Work

continued from page 1

make the site more attractive. Each of these phases will take about a year.

Because compacted trash in landfills generates methane gas, an intricate system of pipes, monitors and vents was installed to process the gas. Since methane is a natural gas, it's burned off and does not create air pollution.

Closing the San Marcos landfill takes a coordinated effort of DPW's sections. Staff from Inactive Landfills, Capital Projects Development, Environmental Services, Construction Engineering and others play a significant role in the planning and implementation of the project.

# FREE CUSTOMER SERVICE AVAILABLE

All new LUEG employees attend an 8-hour Quality Service Training Class given by the County's Customer Service Center. Additional free classes are available from the Customer Service Center that cover new material or be can used as a refresher within the Group. Each of the following modules is between 30 minutes and one hour.

Modules Included in the 8-hour Class – Suggested for Refresher Training:

- **Assisting Angry/Difficult Customers in Person** – This class is helpful for employees who have regular face-to-face contact with customers. Participants will practice tactics for working with different types of angry or upset customers.
- **Telephone Etiquette - Assisting Angry/Difficult Customers Over the Phone** – Participants will learn to improve the service they provide over the phone by identifying barriers to working with customers over the phone and techniques to overcome them.
- **Teamwork** – This class covers the benefits of working in a team, guidelines for building an effective team, and how to use teams to solve a specific problem.

Additional Customer Service Training Modules:

- **Customer Service in Written Correspondence** – This module is helpful for employees who often communicate with customers (both internal and external) through written correspondence. It focuses on knowing and writing to your audience and includes review of common rules of grammar.
- **Providing Service to Customers with Disabilities** – Participants will learn helpful tips to use when assisting customers with physical disabilities in this hands-on module.
- **Customer-Focused Emails** – This module presents recommendations and standards when representing the County via emails. It is helpful for employees who use email to communicate with both internal and external customers.

Trainings can be requested by department contacts that have 15-25 employees to attend the chosen training, and classes can be customized to include two or more modules if requested.

Please contact Jennifer Baillie at 858.495.5789 to schedule training modules or for more information. The Customer Service Center is now booking classes for Summer 2004.

### Board of Supervisors

Greg Cox, District 1  
Dianne Jacob, District 2  
Pam Slater-Price, District 3  
Ron Roberts, District 4  
Bill Horn, District 5



Land Use & Environment Group

The *LUEG Report* is a quarterly publication of the County of San Diego distributed to the 1,500 professionals who form the Land Use & Environment Group

Walter F. Ekard  
Chief Administrative Officer

Robert R. Copper  
Executive Editor-Deputy Chief  
Administrative Officer and  
Group General Manager

Debby Baker  
Editor-Chief of Recreation,  
Marketing and Community  
Center Operations  
Department of Parks &  
Recreation

Chris Parkinson  
Graphic Design and Layout  
Department of Public Works

To contribute articles, ideas,  
or comments, contact  
Debby Baker at (858) 694-3970  
debra.baker@sdcounty.ca.gov